

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 647 – *Health Services Cost Review Commission – Report on Hospital Charges*.

This bill requires the Health Services Cost Review Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Health Care Commission, to publish each acute care hospital's severity-adjusted average charge per case for the 15 most common inpatient diagnosis-related groups.

Senate Bill 380, which was passed by the General Assembly and allowed to go into effect without my signature, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 647.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

House Bill No. 647

AN ACT concerning

Health Services Cost Review Commission – Report on Hospital Charges

FOR the purpose of requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Health Care Commission, to publish certain information on hospital charges; and generally relating to hospital charges.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 19–207(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

19–207.

(b) In addition to the duties set forth elsewhere in this subtitle, the Commission shall:

(1) Adopt rules and regulations that relate to its meetings, minutes, and transactions;

(2) Keep minutes of each meeting;

(3) Prepare annually a budget proposal that includes the estimated income of the Commission and proposed expenses for its administration and operation;